CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY SECRET

INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY USSR/Germany (Soviet Zone)

SUBJECT Anti-Aircraft Tactics and Techniques

PLACE ACQUIRED

DATE ACQUIRED

DATE OF IN

DATE DISTR. 24 Mar 52

NO. OF PAGES 5

NO. OF ENCLS. (LISTED BELOW)

SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO.

25X1

THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

25X1

VNOS is under MGB - MVD troops and is connected with the PVO system. Each city has a PVO system. Posts are manned by MVD troops. Fire-fighting personnel are militarized and under MVD control. The basic duty of VNOS posts at present is close observation of aircraft movements over USSR territory.

Radar is, at present, on a very small scale. In my division (12th Guards Mech Div), there was only one radar set. It was controlled by the MGB, not by the division and even had its own codes and command and communication channels. The commander was a senior lieutenant named Bogdasarov whose staff included one lieutenant technician, three sergeant-technicians who did work on the radar, and 8 - 12 soldiers who manned an observation post mounted on top of divisional headquarters. The antenna was on the roof of the building. All personnel were attached to division for quarters, rations and administration, including military training. But in operational matters, the unit commander reported directly to his own superiors.

A characteristic feature of Soviet AA is its static quality and lack of maneuver. The country is divided up into sectors served by specific radar, AA and interceptor aircraft installations. Fighter aircraft operate in their own sectors and at specific altitudes to avoid their own AA.

CLASSIFICATION SECRET/SECURITY INFORMATION SECRET

STATE	X	NAVY	X	DISTRIBUTION
ARMY	X	AIR	X	

25X1

25X1

Advanced air fields are provided with AA (probably 37 mm) and fighter aircraft. During battle or near the front, fighter craft make routine continuous control flights over airfields and important installations. Their purpose is to deflect enemy aviation and gain time for other fighter craft to take off. Bridgeheads and river crossings, for example, the annual exercises on crossing the Elbe River in Germany, have fighter aircraft protection. Consequently they have no AA. During offense and just before an attack begins, fighter aircraft will be employed against enemy troops. On defense, 25X1
ground artillery is employed. AA generally is in the rear area.

As a general rule AA is not set up in forward areas. If any AA is used, it will be 37 mm mobile guns.

25X1

Not very effective. two German planes actually shot down by Soviet AA. Probably 1,500 to 2,000 shells per plane were fired. In general, AA fire aimed at a 25X1
definite target was extremely ineffective. However, massed fire around important objectives, such as the city of Moscow, was really effective. Guns were placed in great concentration and fired, not at specific targets, but according to an area-wide pattern so that literally a wall of fire was created.

25X1

25X1

As a rule AAA guns and AA machine guns supporting tactical units under field operations will not be dug in. A suitable place is cleaned off and leveled where the guns are set up. The position may be 10 to 20 centimeters lower than the surrounding ground 25X1
level. The purpose is to give stability to the gun, not necessarily to protect it. As usual the gun crews prepare their slit trenches.

25X1

AA guns usually are towed by trucks or tractors. There is one piece of multi-barrelled AA equipment. This is a four-barrelled machine-gun caliber 12.5 or 27.6 mounted on an American half-track (armored vehicle). All four barrels are fired by the same trigger. In a tank regiment there is one anti-aircraft machine-gun company with two platoons, each of which has two half-tracks mounted with four-barrel AA machine guns. Trains with AAA cars do exist; generally such cars are concentrated around large and important railway junctions and installations. Such cars would be under the control of Army or front headquarters and would probably not be attached to lower units.

25X1

Allotment of AAA and AA MG units will be made to points of most probable attack by enemy aviation and the assignment of such units from reserve will be regulated by developments in the situation. Generally speaking in the forward areas various level units contain their own AA defense elements. For example, a tank regiment has its AA MG company; tank and mechanized divisions will have one AA regiment and at Army level there will be at least one AA division.

25X1

AA rockets do not exist in the Soviet Army. the Germans did use such rockets, nothing similar to the German rockets in the Soviet forces.

25X1

25X1

describe specific tactical training given to an AAA officer in his OCS; however, he receives the same tactical training as officers of other arms except with concentration on AA tactics.

25X1

an AAA NCO in his unit (regimental) school would be given general infantry tactics training.

At the instruction of the commanding officer. In general he will open fire when an enemy plane comes within the effective range of his guns.

The chief deceptive measure employed by AAA units is to cover the gun with a net which is part of the organizational equipment. Under field conditions the gun may be covered by small trees and branches collected locally.

Such training is generally done on an artillery range using propeller-driven medium bombers. Since fire is by batteries, the gun is aimed by tracking the plane. The ammunition is armor-piercing incendiary and tracer; generally each 10th shell will be a tracer shell.

25X1

25X1

In the tactical zone in a troop column, some of the AA MG's will be placed in the advance guard. The majority of the AA guns will be somewhere near the headquarters units in the column and another group of AA MG's or AA guns will be placed between the main body of the column and the rear guard, if there is a rear guard. In the absence of a rear guard, the AA elements then will be at the end of the column. On reaching the area of the concentration, the immediate task of the AA elements is to get themselves into the position so as to cover the other elements while taking their place in the concentration area. When troop columns are moving along military highways, which are under the control of regularly assigned traffic regulating troop units, the AA elements travel with the column inasmuch as AA installations are normally located already along such

25X1

military roads. In the absence of such previously located AA installations the AA elements may leapfrog. In the deep rear zone, troop movements will be mostly by train with AA elements loaded on the train so as to give a maximum of protection.

In movement of columns, AA guns are towed by trucks. The distance between vehicles will be 20 to 50 meters; the distance between platoons likewise will be 20 to 50 meters; the distance between batteries will be 75 to 100 meters; and that between divisions (battalions) will be up to 1,000 meters.

When a column is attacked the AA guns move to the side and are changed to firing position and open fire. Non-antiaircraft units, especially infantry, depending on the surroundings, will disperse and take cover. In the planning of a movement a PVO section makes definite plans for air defense measures during the movement. Observation posts are established in the column and procedure to be followed in case of an attack is worked out in advance.

When a column halts along the road, for example for a rest, anti-aircraft guns will be put into firing position if the halt is to last for more than a few minutes. Anti-aircraft spotters will be alerted in accordance with the PVO plan for the movement.

Normal intervals are given in answers to question number 21. Other air defense measures include mounting of machine guns on trucks, machine guns on half-tracks ready to operate, volley or salvo style fire from rifles or automatic rifles.

The best camouflage is obtained by making such movements during darkness or under fog or rain or snow. Further it is possible to camouflage some supplies or personnel in trucks but during ordinary daylight hours it is not practical to camouflage a large-scale 25X1 movement. participated in movements where camouflage has been attempted by putting branches of trees onto trucks and guns. In subsequent discussions with air men such camouflage was worse than no camouflage at all. In the deep rear, movements may be made by daylight while in the area near the front, movements will be made chiefly at night.

During movements, fire direction is handled in centralized form on the basis of a plan drawn up by the divisional or unit artillery commander. The plan provides for various stages in the march, takes into account passage through any areas where artillery or AA fire would be forbidden, and provides for signals for communication purposes during the march.

In case of an attack by fighter-bombers the signal "Vozdukh (air attack)" would be given. The column would stop. Personnel of elements of the column would disperse to the right or left according to previously decided plan and unit commanders would try to produce volley fire from rifles. Chances are that there would not be time to convert AA guns to fire position. It could be expected that anti-aircraft fire from the machine-guns mounted on trucks and from those mounted on the half-tracks could be made in time. If such attacks were frequent then the method of leap-frogging the AA elements would be adopted.

25X1

The AA defense of a bivouac area of a division is worked out by the Chief of the Operation Section together with the Artillery Chief of the division. It is coordinated with the plans and chemical defense. It will include location of AA positions, location and numbering of aircraft spotting posts, provision for regular relief of personnel on duty at spotting posts, means of communication such as runners, telephone or radio, and signaling methods such as rockets.

Main Supply Routes are provided with static anti-aircraft protection by AA installations at regular intervals along the route.

As a rule AAA units do not dig in pieces of bivouac areas during day or night halts for sleep or during short halts. Usually for a fairly long halt a suitable area will be cleaned off and leveled and the AA guns converted to fire position. Pieces are dug in only under static conditions as for example, the permanent defense of a city.

The role of AA and AAA units during offensive action is as follows: AA elements will be deployed at the points most sensitive to enemy aviation attack, such as, headquarters, bridges, railway installations and river crossings. The period of massing for an attack is especially important and AA elements will be deployed just as was described under question 29 for troop movements, that is, for defense of a bivouac area. A plan for the AA defense will be drawn up by the operational section in cooperation with the artillery commander covering in detail the location of AA positions, observation posts, and signal communications in advance.

The functions of AA elements during pursuit is as follows: Tactics and technique will be to cover the most spots which are more sensitive to enemy air attack of the forward rear; dispersion and deployment will be similar to those during a troop movement or march; while the command will be centralized at regimental level.

As a general rule, the AA elements during the offense will be in the Second Echelon and therefore will not be in a position to ordinarily engage the enemy directly. It is hardly likely that a large caliber AA gun for example, 85 mm, would ever be used against a tank. On the other hand, some AA guns such as the 37 mm might very well be used in a ground role and AA machine-guns could certainly be used in a secondary ground role.

-end-